

We Claim:

1. A composition comprising:
 - i) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier;
 - ii) material from a plant species of each of the following genera of herbs: *Scutellaria*,
5 *Glycyrrhiza*, *Ziziphus* and *Paeonia*; and
 - iii) one or more chemotherapeutic compounds.
2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the plant species are *Scutellaria baicalensis*,
Glycyrrhiza uralensis, *Ziziphus jujuba*, and *Paeonia lactiflora*.
3. The composition of claim 1 wherein the one or more chemotherapeutic compounds are
cancer chemotherapeutics.
4. The composition of claim 3 wherein the one or more chemotherapeutic compounds are
selected from the group consisting of an irinotecan formulation, 5-fluorouracil, VP-16 and
beta-L-Dioxolane-cytidine.
5. A method of increasing the therapeutic index of cancer therapeutic compounds for the
treatment of cancer by administering to a mammal in need thereof, a therapeutically effective
20 amount of a composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a plant species of
each of the following genera of herbs: *Scutellaria*, *Glycyrrhiza*, *Ziziphus* and *Paeonia*.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the material from the herbs is in the form of a granulated
extract from a concentrated aqueous liquor.
- 25 7. The method of claim 5, wherein the composition is in an ingestible form.

8. The method of claim ~~7~~, wherein the ingestible form is selected from the group consisting of powder, capsule, liquid and tablet.

9. The method of claim ~~5~~ wherein the composition is in the form of a suppository.

10. The method of claim ~~5~~ wherein the mammal is a human.

11. A method of treating a disease in a mammal in need thereof which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising:

- i) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier;
- ii) material from a plant species of each of the following genera of herbs: *Scutellaria*, *Glycyrrhiza*, *Ziziphus* and *Paeonia*; and
- iii) one or more chemotherapeutic compounds.

12. The method of claim ~~11~~ wherein the mammal is a human.

13. A method of treating a disease in a mammal in need thereof which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of one or more chemotherapeutic compounds and a composition comprising:

- i) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier;
- ii) material from a plant species of each of the following genera of herbs: *Scutellaria*, *Glycyrrhiza*, *Ziziphus* and *Paeonia*.

14. The method of claim ~~13~~ wherein the composition is administered before the administration of the one or more chemotherapeutic compounds.

15. The method of claim ~~13~~ wherein the composition is administered after the administration of the one or more chemotherapeutic compounds.

16. The method of claim ~~13~~ wherein the mammal is a human.

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17. A method of modulating hematopoietic activity for the treatment of a disease by administering to a mammal in need thereof, a therapeutically effective amount of a composition consisting essentially of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and material from a plant species of each of the following genera of herbs: *Scutellaria*, *Glycyrrhiza*, *Ziziphus* and *Paeonia*.

18. The method of claim ~~17~~, wherein the material from the herbs is in the form of a granulated extract from a concentrated aqueous liquor.

19. The method of claim ~~17~~ wherein the composition is in an ingestible form.

20. The method of claim ~~19~~ wherein the ingestible form is selected from the group consisting of powder, capsule, liquid and tablet.

21. The method of claim ~~17~~ wherein the composition is in the form of a suppository.

22. The method of claim ~~17~~ wherein the mammal is a human.

23. A method of improving the quality of life of a mammal undergoing chemotherapy which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of one or more chemotherapeutic compounds and a composition comprising:

i) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier;

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Abstract